

stronger, more robust, and more important than ever.

The Taiwan Relations Act established the American Institute in Taiwan, AIT, as a nonprofit corporation to conduct any and all U.S. Government programs, transactions, and other relations with Taiwan; in other words, to function as America's unofficial embassy.

The current AIT facilities, which consist largely of aging quonset huts, are grossly inadequate and were not designed for the important functions of AIT. They were built as temporary facilities almost 50 years ago and are increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain.

From the perspective of security, AIT fails miserably in its structure. AIT is surrounded by taller buildings and lacking adequate setback. Major cost-ineffective enhancements would be required to bring it into compliance with security requirements.

Because of the unique status of Taiwan, the State Department is not able under routine authority to proceed with the planning and the construction of a new facility for AIT. The legislative branch, this Congress, must specifically authorize and appropriate the necessary funds.

AIT has made a good-faith effort to set aside funds for the construction of a new office building or complex. However, this effort, while significant, will never be sufficient to meet AIT's needs. Therefore, H.R. 3707 authorizes the appropriation of \$75 million for planning, acquisition and construction of a new facility for the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT).

Mr. Speaker, this body has been seized with issues involving our relations with Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. Taiwan is a shining example of political and economic development in Asia. It has made the transition to a fully functioning democracy.

Recently, Taiwan celebrated the successful conclusion of elections that, for the first time in its history, in fact the first time in Chinese history, saw the Democratic transfer of power to the opposition party. This weekend Taiwan's newly-elected president and vice president will be inaugurated.

In view of these developments, now is the appropriate time to send the message of our unshakeable, long-term commitment to America's critically important relations with Taiwan. With a new AIT facility, the United States is delivering the message that its presence will remain as long as it takes to assure that any reunification with the mainland is voluntary and as a result of peaceful means.

In the next few days, this body is likely to approve permanent normal trade relations with the People's Republic of China as part of our support for its accession into the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Similarly, this Member is confident that this body will support simultaneous accession of Taiwan to the WTO,

an action that has been too long delayed. We will support the accession of the PRC to the WTO because it is in our clear national interest to do so. But, at the same time, we will be making it clear that Taiwan merits similar consideration in the WTO and must have membership in it. I would hope it will come at the same session of the WTO.

This Member wishes to express his sincere appreciation to the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT); the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the majority leader; and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the Democratic leader; the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the committee chairman; the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the ranking Democratic member, and all of those in the House and the Senate who have contributed to moving this important bill forward under unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker, this Member supports these changes to H.R. 3707 and urges all of his colleagues to join in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3707.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

PERIODIC REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-241)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 18, 2000.

CONTINUATION OF EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-242)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622 (d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to Burma is to continue in effect beyond May 20, 2000.

As long as the Government of Burma continues its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, this situation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force these emergency authorities beyond May 20, 2000.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 18, 2000.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 632

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 632, the Safe Seniors Assurance Study Act of 1999.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

VOTE AGAINST PNTR

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues William Safire's editorial from today's New York Times. Today, Mr. Safire writes that before Richard Nixon died, Mr. Safire had a conversation with Nixon about China. Safire asked Nixon if he had gone a bit overboard on selling the American public on the political benefits of the China deal. Nixon replied that he was not as hopeful as he had once been, saying, "We may have created a Frankenstein."